MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

held at

Yarra Room, Olympic Park, Melbourne on Tuesday, 9th August 1983, commencing 6 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. R. Harper	
Mr. B. H. Macintosh	
Mr. J. Mitchell	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. G. J. Simm	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

In attendance

Mr. B. Greer	Business Adviser, Employment Co-operative Development Programme

Apologies for non attendance

Messrs. A. Dash, E. J. Long, J. Rigby, O. J. Slattery

2. MINUTES

2.i Co-operative Federation of Victoria

The minutes of the Council Meeting, Co-operative Federation of Victoria held 18th July 1983, having been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record of the last meeting of that body.

Moved Mr. Mitchell
seconded Mr. Harper

2.ii Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd.

The minutes of the Board Meeting held 18th July 1983, having been circulated were received, confirmed and adopted.

Moved Mr. Simm
seconded Mr. Rundle

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3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i	Minute 5.ii(c)	Notice of motion given at Annual General Meeting for deliberation next General Meeting.
3.ii	Minute 6	Statutory Directors' report signed by Messrs. Black and Slattery "in accordance with a resolution of the Directors".
3.iii	Minute 7	Minimum number for Conference did not reach 100 but response dictated desirability of proceeding with the programme as agreed by the Chairman.
3.iv	Minute 10(iii)	President wrote to Executive Officer, C.F.A.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.i Registrar re Legislative inhibitions on development of centralised Banking Scheme

The Board was advised of the Registrar's verbal response to the formal request from the Federation for advise on this matter.

In view of renewed interest expressed by Members following discussion in the 1983 Conference the Board resolved

"That the Executive Officer liaise with 5 possible participants in the scheme and submit a proposition paper for consideration by the Board at its next meeting."

Moved Mr. Macintosh
seconded Mr. Harper

4.ii From Victorian Trading Co-operative's Association

re possible activation of the Association or its closure during the current year.

Noted.

Correspondence received on motion of Mr. Simm
seconded Mr. Mitchell

5. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Board received an application for membership of the Federation from

Wholefoods Co-operative Ltd.,

together with requisite subscription and application for qualifying share monies.

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The Board resolved

that Wholefoods Co-operative be admitted into membership of the Federation and five two dollar shares be issued to that Co-operative.

6. FINANCIAL

A copy of the audited accounts for the financial year ended 30th June 1983 and the audited report thereon, together with Directors' Statutory Report, were tabled, adopted and are appended to the file copy of these minutes.

Moved	Mr. Rundle
seconded	Mr. Simm

7. FEDERATION STAFF

7.i Administrative Assistant

The Board was advised that a direction had been received from the Minister of Employment and Training authorising a total payment of $1,749 (being $750 for salary and $999 for overtime and other expenses) to Mrs. Sarlin.

At the same time a letter was received from Mrs. Sarlin's solicitors accepting the offer of $750 "in full and final settlement".

$750 has been paid to Mrs. Sarlin's solicitor through the Federation's solicitor, the Minister so advised and direction sought on 2nd August 1983 on payment of the excess authorised.

No response received to date.

7.ii Business Adviser

Following cessation of funding from the Employment Co-operative Development Programme, the services of Mr. Greer have been terminated as at 31st August 1983. He is due 10 days leave and will conclude duty on 17th August 1983.

The Board expressed concern at this summary termination of funding without reasons being advanced for such action.

The Board directed that

(i) a testimonial letter be prepared by the Executive Officer in recognition of Mr. Greer's services for any future use by him;

(ii) a letter be addressed to the Premier from the Chairman formally recording the concern of the Federation at this summary treatment without reason or consultation after four years'

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involvement in this Government Programme.

Moved Mr. Harper
seconded Mr. Simm

The Board formally placed on record its

Appreciation to Mr. Greer for his contribution to the Employment Co-operative Development Programme which, as an experimental programme, presented difficult circumstances under which to operate. The Board recorded its thanks to Mr. Greer for his dedication to his difficult task and expressed its confidence in the performance of his work for Co-operatives in the Programme within the terms of his appointment.

Moved Mr. Black
seconded Mr. Rundle

8. REVIEW OF 1983 CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Board considered the Conference Programme to have been excellent in planning and presentation and the venue good.

The Board recorded its congratulations to the Chairman for his admirable conduct of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting and the Conference.

Following discussion on problems associated with holding an Annual General Meeting 40 days after the end of the financial year and the desirability of August as a month in which to hold the Conference the meeting resolved

That the Victorian Co-operatives State Conference be held in August at which a report from the Chairman of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. is presented and the Annual General Meeting of Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. be held within four months from the end of the financial year in accordance with the Co-operation Act.

Moved Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Macintosh

9. BULK FUEL PURCHASING

A meeting was held in Morwell on 26th July 1983 between Messrs. Simm, Macintosh and Hitchins (Drouin Moe Co-operative) following which confirmatory information on sales and requesting formal authority for C.F.V. Ltd. to act as fuel contract negotiator was sought from 12 Co-operatives. Subject to satisfactory response discussions will be opened with fuel companies concerning price tendering. Response from 6 Co-operatives received to date.

Noted.

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10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After discussion and due process of election the following officers were elected by the Board

Chairman	Mr. J. N. Black
Vice Chairman	Mr. O. J. Slattery
Representatives to C.F.A. Council	Mr. J. N. Black - alternate O.J.Slattery Mr. B.H. Macintosh- alternate E. J. Long

The Chairman reminded the Board that actual, positive and urgent attention is required to be given to planning the immediate future of the Federation in terms of programmes, funding and staffing.

11. REPORT

11.i Employment Co-operative Development Programme

The Legislation Committee met on 25th July 1983 to consider the Management Consultants' Evaluation Report on the Programme. A submission was made to the Minister expressing concern at statements made in the report relating to the Business Advisory Unit.

Advice received from the Minister authorising use of funds provided for consultants' services for the two month period ending 31st August 1983.

Advice received from Minister "that it is not now the intention to continue funding the Business Advisory Unit after 31st August 1983.

A meeting was sought and held with the Minister on 8th August at which the Federation was represented by Directors Rundle and Harper and Executive Officer Rawlinson in an endeavour to obtain reasons for this action and ways in which Federation might be involved in the future operations of the Programme.

The meeting was unproductive.

The Board directed that the Premier be advised of the Federation's concern as per Minute 7(ii) above.

11.ii Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Meeting held on 28th July 1983 attended by Messrs. Long and Rawlinson.

The Registrar indicated names and addresses of Community Co-operatives will now be supplied to the Federation.

The Registrar also advised of his intention to enforce compliance by Co-operatives registered under the Act with principles and practices of Co-operation and with the Act.

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11.iii Co-operative Federation of Australia

Arrangements now completed for transfer of Secretariat records from Melbourne to Sydney.

11.iv Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported that activities concerned with preparation for 1983 Conference, Annual General Meeting, Committee meetings, clearance of C.F.A. records had precluded any field visits since the last meeting on 18th July.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

12.i Notice by Mr. Dash of Intention to Resign

The Chairman indicated he will liaise with Mr. Dash and V.C.C.A. on this matter.

12.ii Mr Greer sought authority to liaise with the Registrar on the subject of research in Worker Co-operatives. The Board readily agreed but directed the arrangement for the meeting be made by the Executive Officer.

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8 p.m.